



Town of Groton, Connecticut

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk 860-441-6640
Town Manager
860-441-6630

Meeting Minutes

Representative Town Meeting

Moderator Jean-Claude Ambroise, Representatives Karin Adams, Scott W. Aument, Sr., Joseph Baril, Nancy E. Barnhart, Alicia Bauer, Genevieve Cerf, Susan Chase-Hildebrand, Michael Collins, Christine Conley, Susan Deane-Shinbrot, Luanne E. DeMatto, Nancy Driscoll, Dave Ferreira, Neal Gardner, Nancy E. Gilly, Patrice Granatosky, Lorraine M. Greubel, Karen Hatcher, Keith L. Hedrick, Conrad F. Heede, Lynn Crockett Hubbard, Rosanne E. Kotowski, Jim Loughlin, Jackie Massett, Bruce A. McDermott, Roscoe Merritt, Scott Newsome, Richard J. Pasqualini, Jr., Pam Ryley, Jack Sebastian, Dana S. Semeraro, Richard Semeraro, Joan Steinfeld, Irma Streeter, Mark Svencer, Archie C. Swindell, Lori A. Watrous, Amanda L. Whewell and Ivy R. Williams

Wednesday, June 12, 2013

7:30 PM

Groton Senior Center

REGULAR MEETING

A. ROLL CALL

Moderator Jean-Claude Ambroise called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

29 members were present, and a quorum was declared.

The Moderator reported that Reps. Ferreira, Heede, Pasqualini, Streeter and Svencer notified the Town Clerk of their absence.

Members Present: Moderator Ambroise, Rep. Adams, Rep. Aument, Rep. Baril, Rep. Barnhart, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Chase-Hildebrand, Rep. Collins, Rep. Conley, Rep. Deane-Shinbrot, Rep. DeMatto, Rep. Driscoll, Rep. Gardner, Rep. Gilly, Rep. Granatosky, Rep. Hatcher, Rep. Hedrick, Rep. Hubbard, Rep. Kotowski, Rep. Massett, Rep. McDermott, Rep. Merritt, Rep. Ryley, Rep. D. Semeraro, Rep. R. Semeraro, Rep. Steinfeld, Rep. Swindell, Rep. Watrous and Rep. Williams

Members Absent: Rep. Cerf, Rep. Ferreira, Rep. Greubel, Rep. Heede, Rep. Loughlin, Rep. Newsome, Rep. Pasqualini Jr., Rep. Sebastian, Rep. Streeter, Rep. Svencer and Rep. Whewell

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Assistant Town Clerk Sally Whitney.

B. MOMENT OF SILENCE AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The members observed a moment of silence followed by the Salute to the Flag.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion that the minutes of April 10, 2013 be approved was made by Rep. Ambroise, seconded by Rep. Williams.

The vote to approve the minutes carried 28 in favor, 1 abstention. (Abstaining: Rep. DeMatto.)

A motion that the minutes of the Annual Budget Meeting for April-May 2013 be approved was made by Rep. Ambroise, seconded by Rep. Adams.

Rep. Steinfeld requested a correction to the time of the recess for the Wednesday, May 8, 2013 budget session.

The vote to approve the minutes as amended carried 28 in favor, 1 abstention. (Abstaining: Rep. DeMatto.)

D. CITIZENS' PETITIONS

Kevin Trejo, 536 Shennecossett Road, thanked the members for all their time and dedication serving as RTM representatives. He supports the RTM form of government in Groton.

E. RECEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS

The Moderator informed members that the Mystic Schooners exhibition game scheduled for June

17, 2013 has been cancelled. He mentioned that the Jabez Smith House is hosting an open house event on Sunday, June 16, 2013. He asked members to contact Jerry Lokken at Parks and Recreation if they want to participate in the Fourth of July parade. The Moderator noted that an Economic Development presentation will be made at the August meeting by Kristen Clarke. He asked members to submit any specific questions to the Town Clerk's office as soon as possible.

Moderator Ambroise announced that Rep. Conley has volunteered to be an ex-officio representative on the Golf Advisory Board.

F. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

1. Financial report

Mr. Oefinger reported that the Fund Balance as of May 31, 2013 is approximately \$9.3 million; the General Contingency balance will be \$183,608 if the RTM approves the fourth quarter transfer of \$92,000 for legal services that is on the agenda for this meeting; the Capital Reserve balance is \$1,277,947.

2. Monthly briefing

The Town Manager highlighted various items from the Town Manager's News. The Manager distributed a spread sheet comparing FYE2004 - FYE2014 budgets. He reported that the Town Council is proceeding with plans for the Police Station and Flanders Road Utility Installation ordinances and that both of these items may be scheduled for a November referendum. He is planning to have "behind the scenes" tours at the police station and asked members to contact his office if they are interested in attending. He emphasized that several modifications to the police station are necessary to meet new State requirements. There will be presentations on both projects at the July RTM meeting.

G. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

No report.

H. LIAISON REPORTS

No reports.

I. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. FINANCE - Chairman Granatosky

Chairman Granatosky read the minutes of the meeting held on June 12, 2013. (Minutes are attached to the permanent record.)

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. DeMatto and so voted unanimously.

2013-0119 FYE 2013 Fourth Quarter Transfers

RESOLUTION FOR FYE 2013 FOURTH QUARTER TRANSFERS

WHEREAS, the Town Charter provides for supplemental appropriations to Adopted Budgets and transfers from the Contingency function during the year and

WHEREAS, the Town Charter also provides for the transfer of funds from one departmental function to another departmental function during the last three months of the fiscal year, and

WHEREAS, transfers are necessary and represent expenditures that were unforeseen or unexpected at the time the FYE 2013 budget was adopted, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that \$92,000 be transferred from the General Fund Contingency function (#1074) to Legal Services (#1006) for costs associated with special projects and ongoing general municipal law issues.

Refer to RTM.

A motion was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Driscoll, that this matter be Adopted.

In response to Rep. Gardner, Chairman Granatosky reviewed the special projects that required legal services and caused the additional expenditures in the Legal Services account.

The motion carried unanimously

2. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & SERVICES - Chairman Ferreira

No meeting, no report.

3. EDUCATION - Chairman Hedrick

No meeting, no report.

4. RECREATION - Chairman Streeter

No meeting, no report.

5. PUBLIC SAFETY - Chairman Pasqualini

No meeting, no report.

6. PUBLIC WORKS - Chairman Collins

No meeting, no report.

7. RULES & PROCEDURES - Chairman Massett

No meeting, no report.

J. BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

No discussion.

K. OTHER BUSINESS

In response to Rep. Conley's inquiry regarding the old Masonic Hall on Packer Road, the Town Manager reported on the status of the demolition.

2013-0174 Review of RTM Rule 8.1 - Personal Interest/Conflict of Interest

REVIEW OF RTM RULE 81. - PERSONAL INTEREST/CONFLICT OF INTEREST

This matter was Referred to the RTM Rules & Procedures Committee.

Rep. Gardner requested a referral to the Rules and Procedures Committee relating to RTM Rule 8.1 - Personal interest/Conflict of interest. He believes there was a violation of this rule during the RTM annual budget meeting and would like the committee to investigate his complaint and review the existing language.

Moderator Ambrose noted that any amendment recommended by the committee will require either a two-thirds vote of those present and voting with prior notice or by a majority vote of the full RTM.

2013-0175 Review of RTM Rule 6.2.1 - Appointment of Chairs for Standing Committees

REVIEW OF RTM RULE 6.2.1 - APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRS FOR STANDING COMMITTEES

This matter was Referred to the RTM Rules & Procedures Committee.

Rep. Gardner requested a referral to the Rules and Procedures Committee for RTM Rule 6.2.1 - Committee Membership and Chair Appointment. He complained that the current RTM Committee Chairs and the Moderator are predominately from the City of Groton districts. He feels that this is biased and asked that the language be revised to base appointments on population.

Moderator Ambrose explained the process that was followed for the current appointments and noted that rule 6.2.1 allows the body to specifically instruct the Moderator on committee

appointments by a two-thirds vote of the members present. He noted that member information sheets are reviewed when placing members on a committee. He stated that he tries to give members their first or second committee choices and that chairs are chosen based on experience.

L. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. was made by Rep. Barnhart, seconded by Rep. Collins and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk
Clerk of the RTM*

Sally A. Whitney, Assistant Town Clerk